



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release: April 4, 2019

Two Former Glenelg High School Students Sentenced in Hate Crime Vandalism Case

Howard County, MD (April 4, 2019) -- Two of the remaining four former students charged with hate crimes stemming from the discovery of racial, anti-Semitic and anti-LGBTQ slurs and symbols on the property of Glenelg High School in May 2018 received their sentences earlier today.

Matthew Lipp of Woodbine and Tyler Curtiss of Brookeville both were found guilty of hate crime charges and were sentenced this morning by Howard County Circuit Court Administrative Judge William V. Tucker. Howard County State's Attorney, Rich Gibson, Jr. commented shortly after the sentencing saying, "We are a community that respects and embraces diversity and this act of hate-filled vandalism stands in direct contradiction to our community's values."

Lipp received a three-year sentence suspending all but 16 weekends in jail and Curtiss received a three-year sentence suspending all but eight weekends in jail. Assistant State's Attorney, Melissa Montgomery, who prosecuted the case, said "The State did not view this as a simple act of vandalism; instead the defendants maliciously carried out a plan to deface their school property with hateful, vile, vicious language."

In addition, Judge Tucker sentenced Lipp and Curtiss to three years of supervised probation, 250 hours of community service, drug/alcohol screening/treatment, restitution for damages to the high school, along with a fine and court costs.

Last month, Joshua Shaffer, of Mount Airy received a three-year sentence, suspending all but 18 weekends in jail, and Seth Taylor, of Glenwood, received a three-year sentence suspending all but nine weekends in jail. Both Shaffer and Taylor pleaded guilty to hate crime charges. Shaffer and Taylor were also sentenced to three years of supervised probation, 250 hours of community service, drug/alcohol screening/treatment, restitution for damages to the high school, along with a fine and court costs.

School administrators and custodians discovered the widespread vandalism and spray-painted graffiti on Glenelg High School's campus just hours before an awards ceremony for graduating seniors on the morning of May 24, 2018. The incident occurred around 11:30pm on May 23, 2018. Despite wearing masks, all four defendants were identified by the school's resource police officer after reviewing video surveillance and the school's Wi-Fi network logs that showed the defendants' cell phones connecting with the network at approximately the same time they were captured on camera.

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